

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references submitted in connection with the Information Disclosure Statement submitted with the previous response. Applicants further thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous rejections of claims 1, 3-10 and 17 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement and scope of enablement and also the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for being incomplete.

Claim rejections 35 USC 112

Claims 1, 3-10, 17 and 18 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for including brackets in the definitions of the variables found in formula (1) in claims 1, 6, 7 and 18. In response, applicants have amended the claims to delete the brackets.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10, and 17 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being "indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Specifically, the term 'saturated ring' is not defined in the specification to know the subject matter embraced by the term."

In response, applicants have amended the wording of the claims to clarify that the ring is carbocyclic. The original definition (which was amended in response to the restriction requirement to exclude all heterocyclics) based on the disclosure at page 3, lines 3 to 6 of the specification makes it clear that the two R1 groups, together with the carbon atoms of A to which they are attached, may form a 4 to 7 membered saturated ring which may *optionally* contain heteroatoms, providing clear basis for restriction to carbocyclic rings in response to the present objection.

The Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. In response, applicants have amended the claim to incorporate the structure of formula (I).

Claim objections

The parenthesis at the end of claim 9 may be deleted as required by the Examiner. In response, applicants have amended the claim to remove the parenthesis.

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The above amendments have been made without prejudice to Applicants right to prosecute any cancelled subject matter in a timely filed continuation application.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

A petition for a 6 month extension of time is being filed herewith, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 50-3231, referencing Attorney Docket No. 101160-1P US.

Respectfully submitted,
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